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HELEN M. PLUM MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
110 West Maple St. • Lombard, IL 60148

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Auditorium

- I. Call to order
 - a. President Allison Pinkett-Floyd called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Helen Plum Library.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
 - a. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Roll call, recording both present and absent members
 - a. Present: President Allison Pinkett-Floyd, Vice President Ken Marshall, Treasurer Kristin Aasmundstad Walsh, Secretary Julie Kowalski-Schmidt; Trustees Jennifer Erickson, Kelly Simms, and Sue Wiggins
 - b. Absent: None
 - c. Staff members present: Executive Director Claudia Krauspe, Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing Sue Wilsey, Assistant Director Anne Luzeniecki, Adult Services Manager Michelle Kilty
 - d. Guests present: none
- IV. Public Comment
 - a. No public presentations were made.
- V. ACTION ITEM: Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. Trustee Wiggins moved to adopt agenda. Trustee Erickson seconded motion. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
- VI. ACTION ITEM: Approval of consent agenda items
 - a. Approval of minutes
 - i. Regular Board meeting, August 16, 2022
 - ii. Closed Session Board meeting, August 16, 2022
 - b. Approval of financial reports
 - i. Check Register dated August 31, 2022
 - ii. Cash and Investments Report dated August 31, 2022
 - iii. Revenue and Expenditures vs. Budget Report dated August 31, 2022
 - iv. Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison as of August 31, 2022
 - c. Trustee Erickson moved to approve consent agenda items. Vice President Marshall seconded motion. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
- VII. Committee reports
 - a. Audit Committee

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- i. Chair Marshall reported that the Audit committee met on Monday, September 12. The results of that meeting are the subject of New Business Action Items a. through d. below.
 - b. Director Relations Committee
 - i. Did not meet
 - c. Policy and Bylaws Committee
 - i. Trustee Wiggins reported there is an upcoming meeting scheduled for Friday, October 7.
- VIII. Unfinished Business
 - a. No unfinished business to report.
- IX. New Business
 - a. ACTION ITEM: The Audit Committee's recommendation to open closed session minutes of:
 - i. February 1, 2022, Audit Committee Meeting
 - ii. February 24, 2022, Director Relations Committee Meeting
 - iii. March 15, 2022, Board Meeting
 - iv. April 19, 2022, Board Meeting
 - v. May 17, 2022, Board Meeting
 - vi. Vice President Marshall noted that the Audit Committee thoroughly reviewed these minutes at its September 12, 2022 meeting.
 - vii. Trustee Wiggins moved to approve the Audit Committee's recommendation. Trustee Erickson seconded motion. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
 - b. ACTION ITEM: The Audit Committee's recommendation to approve the report on Secretary's records for December 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
 - i. Vice President Marshall reported that the Audit Committee approved the secretary's records at the committee's meeting.
 - ii. Trustee Wiggins moved to approve the Audit Committee's recommendation. Trustee Erickson seconded motion. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
 - c. ACTION ITEM: The Audit Committee's recommendation to approve destruction of closed session meeting audio recordings older than 18 months (in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2.06).
 - i. Trustee Wiggins moved to approve the Audit Committee's recommendation. Trustee Erickson seconded motion. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
 - d. ACTION ITEM: The Audit Committee's recommendation to approve destruction of verbatim virtual meeting session recordings older than 18 months (in accordance with Public Act 101-640).
 - i. Trustee Wiggins moved to approve the Audit Committee's recommendation. Trustee Erickson seconded motion. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
 - e. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Board Statement in reference to challenged library materials or displays.
 - i. Trustee Wiggins moved to approve the Board Statement in reference to challenged library materials or displays. Trustee Erickson seconded motion.
 - ii. Trustee Wiggins read the proposed Board Statement (see **Appendix A** for Final Board Statement) out loud for the record.
 - iii. Vice President Marshall read a statement (see **Appendix B**) for the record expressing his thoughts regarding the proposed Board Statement.

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- iv. President Pinkett-Floyd read a statement (see **Appendix C**) for the record expressing her thoughts regarding the proposed Board Statement.
 - v. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
- X. Communications
- a. The Board and Administration received an email from a Mr. Warren inquiring about the Board Statement in reference to challenged library materials or displays. President Pinkett-Floyd noted that we will be in touch with him regarding his inquiry.
- XI. Library Director's Report
- a. Claudia reported that Trustee Elections will be on April 4, 2023. Three seats are up for reelection.
 - b. Claudia noted that we received our Per Capita Grant money.
 - c. Claudia reported that all trustee visits are almost complete.
 - d. Claudia reminded the board that Trustee Day at the ILA Conference is October 20, 2022. Board members interested in attending should let us know before September 26.
 - e. Claudia reported the Annual Audit will begin next week.
 - f. Claudia shared a handout with the trustees regarding the new building timeline. Engberg Anderson will be going out to bid for a moving company.
 - i. Vice President Marshall asked how long we anticipate being closed due to the move. Claudia noted somewhere between 2-4 weeks.
 - ii. Claudia noted that early April or end of March 2023 is our targeted time to open the new building.
 - g. Claudia reported about a compliance requirement we will have to meet for historical preservation of our current building at 110 W. Maple. We will be required to do some "recordation" of the building history including digital documentation.
 - h. Claudia anticipates a Closed Session at the October Board Meeting.
 - i. Sue Wilsey reminded everyone that on September 29, the Make-a-Wish family is coming to the library to celebrate the featured mural in the library lobby.
- XII. Departmental Reports
- a. Trustee Wiggins asked about the self-checkout tablet and lending stations that will be installed in the new building referenced at the bottom of page 9 of the Cross Departmental Report. Anne L. reported that these will be used primarily in the Youth Services Department.
 - b. Vice President Marshall asked about the handout Patron Services is working on with Marketing to inform patrons about what is needed to become a reciprocal borrower at our surrounding libraries. Claudia noted that we do not yet know the timeline of borrowing materials during the new building transition.
- XIII. Adjournment: 7:33 p.m.
- a. Trustee Wiggins moved to adjourn. Trustee Erickson seconded motion. All ayes, no nays.

Approved: _____

Julie Kowalski-Schmidt
Board Secretary

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Appendix A

Final Board Statement

The Board unanimously affirms the [American Library Association Library Bill of Rights](#) and [Freedom to Read](#) Statements on book selection, library resources, and controversial materials.

Policies approved by the Helen M Plum Memorial Library Board of Trustees serve as the directive of the Board in reference to the operational policies of the Library. Library displays created by professional library staff may include relevant items from the Library's collections. Library Policy U-5, Materials Selection, includes the following assertions:

The Board of Trustees wants the Library's collection to be an extensive, comprehensive, and cosmopolitan collection of library materials.

Materials in the collection are selected to reflect the diverse needs of the residents of Lombard. If the Plum Library is to fulfill its obligation of being a public library, then, to the extent authoritative materials are available, it must have in its collection materials on all subjects, by authors of varied political affiliations, and of varied points of view, even those which may be regarded by some as controversial, whether because of political expression or affiliation, or moral implication. There is the possibility that material may be regarded by some as unpleasant or offensive, or in political or religious opposition to local beliefs.

The Library places the responsibility with the parent or guardian for the use of Library materials for or by their children.

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Appendix B

September 20, 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting
Statement from Vice President Ken Marshall regarding the proposed board statement in reference to challenged materials and display.

I agree in principle with the proposed “Board Statement”. Before voting on that “Statement”, however, I want to make a few comments. I am in full accord with our Library Policy U-5, dealing with Materials Selection. I have some concerns not with the selection or maintenance of the Library’s collection, but rather with the criteria for deciding what aspects of the collection are chosen to be highlighted or displayed.

I am thinking particularly of the June, 2022 Pride display. All of us Trustees received correspondence dealing with that display, as did the Library administration. That display was also the subject of public comments at the June Board meeting. For me the most pertinent issues raised by the aforesaid correspondence and comments were 1) the allegation that library was “being a tool for controversial, partisan causes” and 2) the question asking that, if the Library is going to “promote” Pride month, “where are the displays and emails for all the other various community causes, including other controversial ones, and even those advanced by different political parties and religious groups?” The question “Will the Library remain neutral to all causes, or will it be inclusive to all causes?” was also significant.

I do not believe that the Pride display was erected to “promote” any “controversial, partisan cause”. That display was part of the Library’s continuing efforts to inform the community of the contents of its collection and additionally, in this case, to indicate the

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collection's diversity and inclusivity by showing that it contains materials for all community members, including those who might feel excluded or marginalized. Also, the display asked the question "What are you proud of?", an inquiry inviting any number of responses on any number of subjects.

That having been said, I think the Library can be inclusive and welcoming to all without highlighting subjects or causes which, in the view of a substantial part of the community it serves, are controversial and divisive. Not every "hot" topic need be avoided: for example, a display dealing with the environment and climate change might be somewhat contentious, but given the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is occurring, that human activity is a major factor in it, and that earth is in peril, such a display would be reasonable, even if generating some opposition. A display regarding the Holocaust likewise would be fine, despite the potential objections of a tiny group of Holocaust deniers.

But a display as fraught with political and moral disputation as a one made up in large part of LGBTQ information might best be eschewed, given the potential for discord such as has been demonstrated in our community. Our library is, and should continue to be, open to all, and not risk alienating any significant segment of the community by having displays which can be seen or interpreted as "promoting" an agenda or a cause which that segment sees as contrary to its beliefs or norms.

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In conclusion, some final points:

- 1) I plan to vote in favor of the statement. I have full confidence in the Library staff and in the judgment of the librarians who make the decisions regarding the topics of Library displays. I only suggest that, in considering subjects for future displays, the librarians take into account, as one - I repeat, as one - of the factors involved in their decisions, whether the subjects, and the way they are presented, might be thought by a significant number of people the library serves as “pushing” a point of view contrary to one shared by those people.
- 2) I am troubled about the library potentially being perceived as a political or partisan entity rather than an open and neutral institution welcoming all points of view.
- 3) I am opposed to any and all censorship of and all ideas, including, but not limited to, political, philosophical, religious, and moral ones, and would never vote to ban any books from the library on those grounds.

Appendix C

September 20, 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting
Statement from President Allison Pinkett-Floyd regarding the proposed board statement in reference to challenged materials and display.

A foundational library responsibility is to assemble a collection of books that reflect the diverse interests of the community it serves. That includes books that can help the community inform itself about topics that may become the focus of a national conversation. Failure to inform the community about the existence of books in our collection because a book topic may make some uncomfortable is censorship. We aim to remain a welcoming place of learning, despite efforts, nationally and closer to home, to turn libraries into culture-war battlefields. We feel the best way to remain inclusive is to promote the depth and breadth of our book collection - not to “take sides” on any particular topic - but because we’re proud of our collection.

The Helen Plum Library Board supports our skilled Librarians and know that when they order books and other materials for the library or create a book display, they are mindful of making sure that the whole community of members can see themselves represented—not just so they can read about people like themselves, but also so there are opportunities to be educated in a diverse range of ideas and views. We feel we provide an inclusive, welcoming, and safe space for everyone in the Helen Plum Library community.

If there are items you wish to borrow that Helen Plum Library doesn't own, we will try to get them for you from another library if you have a current Helen Plum Library card through our interlibrary loan process. If you would like an item added to our collection, we welcome suggestions. If the item meets our collection standards and is available, we can try to obtain it.